fitted with catalytic converters and designed to use unleaded petrol. By and large, it has not been considered technically feasible or economically viable to retrofit older vehicles with catalytic coverters, bearing in mind Indian conditions and the economic costs involved not being commensurate with the environmental advantage realised. It has been felt more advantageous to concentrats on ensuring that new vehicles are fitted with catalytic converters and allowing older vehicles to be gradually phased out.

(b) the measures being taken for control of pollution from on-road vehicles include the following:

(i) State Transport Authorities have been asked to enforce the standards stipulated for on-road vehicles;

(ii) Lead level is planned to be reduced to a maximum of 0.15 grammes per litre in petrol to be supplied throughout the country by December, 1996.

(iii) Intensive awareness compaigns have been launched by Transport Departments of States, to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards and about the measures for keeping the emission levels low.

(iv) Various Government Departments have been asked to get the vehicles in their administrative control checked regularly and suitable measures be taken to ensure that the emissions are within the prescribed limits.

(v) A major survey was carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board on the pollution caused by automobiles in the major cities and towns in the country. The findings of the Survey have been used to prepare comprehensive programmes for control of pollution in the major cities.

(vi) City planners have been advised to incorporate in their plan the long-term requirements of mass transportation.

(vii) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas in petrol driven vehicles in some of the cities.

Crude oil reserves in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

2272. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that crude oil reserves have been found at Lakhimpur, Dhewaji and Jonai in Assam Ruksin, Oyaw, Sille and Rasighat in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) when exploration of crude oil likely to take place in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Plans are in hand to drill about six locations in Lakhimpur area soon during 1995-96, based on the results of seismic interpretation. One block in Lakhimpur district covering an area of 4200 Sq. Kms. in Lakhimpur, Dhakuakhana, Bihpuria, Majuli etc. has been offered to foreign/ Indian oil companies in Joint Venture Exploration Programme, 1995, date of submission of bids for which is 15th September, 1995.

Construction of Rail Overbridge at National Highway 46

2273. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state: